



CRITIC COMMENTS ON DAIRY PROBLEMS IN SHAHUVADI TAHASIL OF KOLHAPUR DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

Cooperative dairies in Shahuwadi Taluka of Kolhapur district has more importance in the rural economy of Shahuwadi Taluka. Generally, all cooperative dairy societies have made satisfactory progress and helped in solving economic and social problems in Shahuwadi Taluka. But, still the dairy societies face some problems which came in the way of their rapid progress. This research paper deals with the various problems faced by the cooperative dairy societies are discussed in the present paper.

KEYWORDS: Cooperative Dairies, Rural Economy, Social Problem, Rapid Progress.

Introduction:

Shahuwadi Taluka is one of the developing Taluka in Kolhapur district. Cooperative milk dairies support the economic development and progress of the Taluka. Crop farming and dairy farming are the part of food production for human population in Shahuwadi Taluka. But in recent years dairying has emerged as an important instrument for providing employment and additional income to rural house holdings of Taluka. In the past dairy farming was basically carried out and managed at the house hold level. Milk and its products were produced mainly for home consumptions and to some extent, for the local market. Rapid growth of urban population change in food habits, technological advancement in transportation. Processing and refrigeration have, however brought out significant changes in the pattern of production and marketing of milk. In this point of view this research paper will focus on various problems of cooperative milk dairies in Shahuwadi Taluka which are as follows:

1) Inadequate management charges:

The government of has been paying fewer amounts to milk to dairy society as management charges. The salary of employees, tools, regular expenses, other management expenditures and contingency expenses have been increased. The rates offered are fairly old and need an upward revision. This is a primary problem which face overall dairy cooperatives in Shahuwadi Taluka.

2) No proper roads:

Good roads are necessary for milk transportation. Better Vehicles like tempo, Truck can be used, if there are proper roads are available but in Shahuwadi Taluka the roads are in the process of being mechanized. The milk federation has to use rough roads and cause delay. In the rainy season, many times, these roads become unusable. Because of rough roads milk spoils from can and there is a great deal of loss to dairy federation.

3) Early collection of milk- (Morning and evening) :

Due to the early collection of milk by milk federation, the acceptance of milk begins quite early in the morning by the dairy societies in Shahuwadi Taluka. Dairy societies are compelled to finish the milk collection work before 7.30 a.m. in morning session and before 7.30 p.m. in evening session. Then only they can supply milk to milk federation in scheduled time. This causes a bit of inconvenience to the society as well as to the milk producer. These societies collect milk in a hurry. It is not possible to test the milk of all members, some milk is of low quality and it is inadvertently accepted. This is main barrier in the expansion of dairy cooperatives in Shahuwadi Taluka.

4) Increase in prices of cattle feed and Fodder:

The prices of cattle feed and fodder have been increasing year after year, whereas the prices of milk have not increased to that extent. In the last 10 years the prices of cattle feed and fodder have increased by more than 250 percent, but prices of milk paid by the Government have increased by 150 percent only in the same period. So, this business has not remained profitable from the view point of landless or small farmers.

5) Faulty method of testing and accepting milk:

Milk is tested soon after the milk selection; payment of milk is made according to the quality of milk supplied and makes testing of milk necessary. The milk sample is supposed to undergo Fat, S.N.F., adulterate, and lactometer and so on. Many times the dairy societies continue to complain against the Taluka Federation for improper tests which account for possible lessees.

Many milk societies from different villages have complained that the work of accepting milk is carried at such speed by the federation that the society persons cannot verify the result particularly that of quantity. This results in loss for dairy cooperative society. There will be a difference of 1 to 2 litres, per con, in the measurement.

6) Cut throat computation among societies:

In Shahuwadi Taluka up to this time overall all villages were having at least one cooperative dairy society. There were 290 dairy societies in 145 village's altogether, resulting in unnecessary duplication and weakening of some societies. But the government, despite this fact, continues to give permission to start new dairy societies. This government policy creates out throat competition amongst the cooperative societies. Government is not adopting any firm policy in this regard. This happens out of political influence.

7) Malpractices in the society:

A number of visits were paid to the dairy societies of Shahuwadi Taluka. It was found that numbers of milk producers were meeting the milk testing authority and were requesting up gradation of the quality of milk in the register. Bogus entries are made in the register. Adulterated milk has to be seized and no payment for such milk, can be made. There should be separate column in the register for such information. But, it has been found that a number of alterations are made in this column. So some producers are providing milk of low quality and receiving payment for good quality of milk.

8) Milk handling loss by the federation:

The milk connecting process of the milk federation at dairy society's in Shahuwadi Taluka is fairly rapid. The milk is collected by the societies in cans, the persons of the federation are in hurry to accept the milk in their own cans. They do not take adequate care to see that, all the milk in the cans is poured out in to their cans properly. This results in losses for the dairy societies. Such reported short collection varies from 100 to 200 ml. Per can per time.

9) Lack of discipline while accepting milk:

There is no discipline at the dairy societies of Shahuwadi Taluka while collecting milk from producers and supplying that to federation. A Number of people crowd at the places of milk collection. There should be a proper method for accepting milk. The milk collection work should be finished before arrival of federation vehicle. The milk producers should be made to stand in a queue and then their milk should be accepted

10) Lack of trained Persons:

Dairy business is a technical business. For success of dairy society trained and experienced persons are required. Trained persons expect more salary. Dairy societies in Shahuwadi Taluka cannot offer good salary due to inadequate profits. Educated & experienced persons are necessary for smooth and proper working of the cooperative society. But in Shahuwadi taluka the secretaries of many cooperative societies were untrained. Thus, accounts were not properly maintained at society level.

Milk testing is a technical process. For milk testing trained persons must be appointed. In practice, it is not true in case of cooperative societies in Shahuwadi Taluka. Untrained persons are working in the societies leading to inefficiency and loss of cooperative societies. The dairy cooperative societies cannot appoint trained persons. It is not possible for the society to pay as per rules or higher payments because the societies are financially weak. Owing to these facts dairy societies are managed by untrained persons without any technical knowledge of

dairy business which ultimately results in inefficiency and loss.

11) Party polities in dairy Society:

The cooperative societies should be free from political influence. But in practice the cooperative societies are not free from political influence. Some cooperative societies acting as headquarters of party politics in the villages in Shahuwadi Taluka. According to the principles of cooperation, cooperative society should be run by the members for their benefit on democratic principles. But actually, The dairy societies are controlled by political leaders. They use dairy society for their own polities advantage. Interest of society members is not guarded properly. This situation hampers the progress of dairy society in Shahuwadi Taluka.

12) Non implementation of operation flood program:

The operation flood scheme and its milk collection structure (three tier set up) has not accepted by Milk Federation and also by the primary dairy cooperative societies in Shahuwadi Taluka.

13) Economically weak cooperative dairy societies:

Majority of the cooperative dairy societies are economically weak and always face capital deficiency problem. The milk producing members in the village are distributed amongst the cooperative dairy societies. If more than one cooperative societies work in one village, the average membership and average capital of cooperative dairy societies decreases. This can be seen by the fact that, many cooperative dairy societies in the Shahuwadi Taluka were closed due to inadequate milk collection. We could say that nearly many dairy cooperative societies in Shahuwadi Taluk are financially weak and poor in organization. These societies are not in a position to provide advances & necessary facilities to their members.

14) Competition among cooperative dairy societies and federations:

There should not be competition exists at two levels amongst the cooperative societies and federations. In Shahuwadi Taluka many villages possess more than 1 dairy society. Every cooperative dairy society tries to collect more milk. If any cooperative society rejects the poor quality of milk from a member, another society accepts the same milk leading to unhealthy competition. This results in increasing scope for adulterating milk for getting unfair gains and gives birth for struggle amongst the societies.

15) Absence of proper milk collection methods:

Milk is a liquid food necessary for human beings, it should be collected, handled & distributed cleanly and properly. There are certain restrictions put on the collection of milk. It should be collected at a certain place and it should be clean. Collection of milk should be made under roof. Vehicles and cans and all equipment's must be clean. But, all these restorations are not followed in Shahuwadi Taluka. A number of cooperative societies collect milk in the open place or under the tree some societies do not have their buildings. The condition of cans & vehicles and other instruments is unclean and bad. Such milk may prove harmful to human being.

16) Non milk producer members:

As per the Maharashtra cooperative Act 1960, and as per principles of cooperation, the cooperative dairy society may not admit a person as member who does not produce milk. In Shahuwadi Taluka, so many persons are members of cooperative dairy society although they are not milk producers. Such examples can also be given in respect to cooperative federations. This situation has been allowed to continue for so long mainly because of their political pressure. The dairy society should not accept any milk from non-members or ex members. In Shahuwadi Taluka, so many societies accept milk from nonmember persons or ex member persons.

17) Absence of regular milk testing:

There are three main test, the fat, S.H.F and Lactometer reading etc. In case of buffalo milk the fat content must be 6.00 degrees or more and 3.5 degrees or more in case of Cow milk. The S.H.F. content must be 9 percent for buffalo milk and 8.5 percent in Cow milk. Lactometer reading should be from 29 to 32 degrees.

While making payment the quality and quantity of milk is taken in consideration. Some dishonest milk producers mix different type of materials such as caustic soda, sugar, salt, starch etc. to increase the SHF of lactometer reading. Therefore, milk must be tested every day. Majority of the cooperative dairy societies in Shahuwadi Taluka do not follow any regular procedure for milk testing. In fact, milk is not tested regularly at some of the societies. Societies only measure lactometer reading and taste. Some societies conduct the tests randomly. This results in malpractices by members. Some societies are unaware of the instruments like automatic milk tester and other milk tests.

18) Monopoly of big farmers:

Every member of a cooperative society has an authority to enjoy equally the right of voting and participating in decisions affecting their society. In Shahuwadi

Taluka membership of many cooperative dairy societies is restricted to a certain families. To complete the required minimum quota of members for the registration of cooperative society. Persons from the same family becoming member of the cooperative society. Some big families or big farmers are controlling the cooperative societies. Some societies are not known by their registered names but as the societies of particular persons.

19) Collection of milk and sale of milk outside area of operation:

Area of operation of society or federation has been fixed at the time of registration. The cooperatives must work within this area. If any cooperative society starts to collect milk from the working area of other society. It has an adverse effect on the progress of that society. In Shahuwadi Taluka a number of cooperative dairy societies are collecting milk from different places. It collects milk from villages falling in the working area of other societies. This practice hampers the smooth working of other societies. It is found that one society collects milk in its village and supplies that to another Taluka federation by using its own vehicle. Such absence of uniformity leads to inefficiency and loss of cooperative societies.

20) Insufficient Veterinary services:

The animal husbandry department of state government is entrusted the work of providing animal health cover and veterinary services to the animals in the Taluka through Zilla Parishad. The number of villages are uncovered and those that are covered find these services insufficient. Govt. provides these services free of charge but the doctors are charging fee for the visits.

21) More milk collection in flush season and less milk collection in lean season:

It is observed from the records of dairy cooperative societies that, in the flush season, in the months of November, December, January and February, the milk collection is largest in the year. In the lean season, in the months of March, April, May, June, July and August, collection is less. This is due to the summer days and shortage of green fodder. Generally, the calves giving period is from June to September. This factor is also responsible for quantity of milk collected in both seasons.

20) Only quantitative development:

The number of dairy cooperative societies in Shahuwadi Taluka is increased and the daily collection of milk is increased in last few years. The dairy societies increased rapidly in number but the milk collection is not increased in that proportion. The figures reveal that there is only quantitative dairy development in Shahuwadi Taluka.

21) Chilling centers not beneficial:

The Taluka milk federation has started 2 chilling centers in the area of operation. So the problem of spoilt milk is no more. It is found that these chilling centers are not beneficial to federation. It is so because the chilled milk also requires ice while supplying that to Govt. milk scheme, Kolhapur. The geographical distance between chilling centers and Govt. milk scheme, Kolhapur is comparatively large. The main aim of establishing chilling center to minimize ice exp; which is not fulfilled.

22) Lack of cooperative spirit:

Cooperative society is a society of the people, by the people and for the people. Cooperative spirit is the life and blood of cooperative institution. But in Shahuwadi Taluka the dairy societies are merely working as milk collection agents. The dairy cooperative societies attempt for uplifting financial condition of poor members is nil. The milk producing members are also not active in this regard. Lack of cooperative spirit is the major difficult in the progress of dairy cooperatives of Shahuwadi Taluka.

CONCLUSION:

It was found that many dairy cooperative of Shahuwadi Taluka were do not follow any regular and standardized procedure for milk testing. Some milk is accepted without testing its quality or by mere observation. This practice should be stopped and 100 percent milk testing procedure should be started. Dairy business is a technical business. It is a business of perishable liquid commodity with gives more scope for malpractices at all levels. This business is risky business as it deals with levels and perishable commodity. So the dairy business should be efficiently managed without any delay.

All the above problems are barriers in the development and expansion of Dairy cooperatives in Shahuwadi Taluka. This is ultimate moral responsibility of dairy cooperatives, individual members and Government to behave positive morale for increasing the strength of cooperative milk dairies in Shahuwadi Taluka.

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